



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: SWANSON LAKES WETLAND RESTORATION/ENHANCEMENT

Description of Proposal:

This project would restore/enhance approximately 50 acres of wetlands and enhance 570 acres of non-forested riparian habitat and 40 acres of forested riparian habitat.

Restoration measures would be implemented at five sites. The target elevations were developed to inundate what is currently wet meadow/hydric soil vegetation, but not inundate shrub-steppe habitat. Man-made ditches will be plugged with earthen fill reestablishing five wetland cells. Seasonal water levels will be established to approximate the wetland hydrology which existed prior to ditching and dewatering. The ditch plugs may incorporate water control devices such as pipe, screw gates and stop logs to allow control of water levels for vegetation management. Concrete or bentonite may be used to improve the seal around control structures where native fill materials are inadequate. Small areas in each wetland cell may be excavated to create areas of deeper, more persistent water. Soils excavated from within the cells will be used as fill for ditch plugs. Excess fill will be deposited on the uplands at sites cleared for cultural and botanical resources.

Soil excavation and other wetland restoration work would be accomplished using heavy equipment such as a dump truck, concrete truck, excavators, and mid-size and small-size dozers. Existing roads and trails would be used for equipment access to all work areas. Disturbed areas would be smoothed and reseeded with a native mix of forbs and grasses where appropriate.

Construction would take approximately 6 weeks and be completed during base flow periods (September -December). The ditches connecting the wetland cells are completely dry during base flow periods. No water will be present during construction of the ditch plugs and no fish are known to occur within the wetland cells.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Juli Anderson: Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Manager,
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
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Location of Proposal, Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Washington, Lincoln County; Southeast 1/4 of Section 32, Township 25 North, Range 35 East WM and Southeast 1/4 of Section 04, Township 24 North, Range 35 East WM.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **June 4, 2012**.

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Bob Zeigler

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

DATE OF ISSUE: May 17, 2012

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 12 -040. dns